

Attorney Docket No. 10559-395001
Appl. No. 09/823,095
Amendment dated October 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 28, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

A number of claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable based on Garibay. In response, these claims have been amended to recite further patentable distinctions. These distinctions are not in any way taught or suggested by Garibay.

Admittedly, Garibay teaches exception handling using a prefetch unit. However, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 9: specifically, storing an instruction and a multiple bit exception status information word, where the states of the multiple bit exception word represent multiple different types of exceptions. Nothing in Garibay in any way teaches or suggests these advantageous features.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the instruction can be multiple data blocks, and the exception status information represents the whole instruction in the multiple data blocks. Again, this is in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

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Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of both claims 11 and 12 therein, and also to specify that the exception status information represents the whole instruction among multiple data blocks. This is in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art, and should be additionally allowable along with the claims which depend therefrom.

Claim 17 has been amended to include similar limitations to those that in claim 1, specifically the multiple bit exception. This is in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art, as described above, and hence should be allowable for similar reasons to those described above.

The rejection of claims 3, 14 and 20 based on obviousness is also respectfully traversed, as there is no suggestion of this feature in the cited prior art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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